

Morgan, Henry James

The place British Americans have won in
history; a lecture... Ottawa, 1866.

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THE PLACE BRITISH AMERICANS HAVE WON IN HISTORY.



A LECTURE,

DELIVERED AT AYLMER, L. C., ON THURSDAY EVENING, 22nd FEBRUARY, 1866.

BY HENRY J. MORGAN,

CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

"Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our own sublime;
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."

Ottawa:
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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

RESEARCH REPORT

NO. 100

1950

BY

1950

TO  
MEYER GOLDSCHMIDT,  
COPENHAGEN.

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MY DEAR MR. GOLDSCHMIDT,—During the short period of our friendship you have more than once expressed to me the warm interest which you take in our young nationality.

You have spoken of our Past history as having reflected credit on our energy and industry ; you regard our Present with mingled feelings of admiration and solicitude ; and you predict for the Future no uncertain amount of national greatness and prosperity.

As a British American by birth and feeling, I am not insensible to the honor of possessing the good opinion of one whose name ranks so deservedly high among the literary men of the North of Europe at the present day ; and, as an earnest of this feeling, I ask your acceptance of the dedication of this slight offering to the genius and talent of my distinguished countrymen.

Very truly yours,  
HENRY J. MORGAN.

OTTAWA, March, 1866.

This Lecture is published at the request of several friends, who, from various causes, were unable to be present at its delivery.

With the exception of a few amendatory touches, and some additional notes, the text has undergone no change.

It is hoped that as a brief *resumé* of facts and incidents connected with British American history, it may prove useful in some degree to those who take an interest in the subject.



## THE PLACE BRITISH AMERICANS HAVE WON IN HISTORY.

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

I would ill discharge the duty assigned me this evening, if, at the outset, I were to conceal from you that I experience some embarrassment in dealing with the subject I have chosen for my lecture. This feeling arises, not from any want of weight or substantiality in the theme itself, or from an insufficient scope for the purpose in hand, but from a knowledge of its magnitude and immensity, and from a consciousness of my own incapability to do it justice.

The history of the large expanse of country which is now known as British America—both under its former rulers and since its conquest by the English,—presents a wide, diversified and inviting field for the range of thought and fancy. Unfortunately, considering the attraction of the subject, the writers who have hitherto devoted themselves to chronicling its various interesting and remarkable epochs and events (if we make a single exception in favor of the late Mr. Garneau, who certainly rendered essential service to his native country in bringing forth much that was previously unknown), have no reason, as a general rule, to plume themselves upon the elaborate nature of their productions. But as my purpose is rather to deal with individual greatness as manifested in our countrymen, than with present British American book-making, or the musty old tomes and records of the past, I will content myself with saying that the Historian of Canada, or British America, has yet to come.

The narrative of our rise and advancement is full of noble and self-denying examples in the cause of Discovery, Civilization and Progress. Many of its pages read like the chapters of a romance—so full are they in turn of fascinating stories of adventure by “flood and field”—of deeds of individual heroism, gallantry and self-sacrifice—of acts of charity and devotion—of patriotic exploits in favor of Law, Church and Government—of glorious victories achieved by the few over the many.

To the calm and reflective mind there is an indescribable charm

in pondering over the story of our earlier history; the emotions which operate upon us partake of joy and sadness; we fly, as it were—

From grave to gay,  
From lively to severe.

We experience, for the early pioneers, delight at their triumphs and successes, and sympathy with their disasters and reverses. We can share with them in their pride and glory in subduing their old foes, the English, in the persons of Phipps, Washington and Braddock, and this, too, by small and unequal forces compared with those of the enemy; and we can weep over the painful and melancholy stories which recount the massacres of Sillery and Lachine.

The account of the war of retaliation against the English Colonies in 1689 presents many instances of bold and fearless performances which redound to their fame; whilst that which describes the dispersion of the noble Acadian people, from the land of their adoption and birth, that people whom Longfellow, in his *Evangeline*, says—

“Dwelt in the love of God and man. Alike were they free from  
Fear, that reigns with the tyrant, and envy, the vice of Republics.  
Neither locks had they to their doors, nor bars to their windows;  
But their dwellings were open as the day and the hearts of the owners;  
There the richest was poor, and the poorest lived in abundance.”

is most touching and sorrowful.

Whether we can appreciate the dangers and difficulties of our early discoverers—the efforts of the first colonizers in founding settlements—the advent of the religious orders and their toils, sufferings and death in the cause of christianity and education—the constant sanguinary skirmishes and conflicts with the native Indian nations—the intestine wars between these savage people themselves—the spirit of adventure and discovery which prompted successful expeditions involving innumerable difficulties and great perils—or the noble fidelity and love of nationality and the resolute firmness which withstood repeated acts of aggression, we cannot but admire our French ancestors for all the high qualities which they displayed, and for the glorious examples they have left us to imitate.

There is a charm, too, in looking back to the existence in the North American wilds, of a real aristocratic element—a remnant of the ancient *noblesse* of France, with all the culture and refinement of their educated and favored class, and no admixture of what forms the “codfish” and “shoddyite” school of our own day and people. I much fear that the chivalry and all the high-born and noble characteristics which wrought such a beneficial influence in the New France and Acadia of those days, has, with them, long departed, and that our society of to-day, is but a vain and empty apology for that which preceded it.

I have spoken in terms of praise of the nature and character of the early French inhabitants, but I have done them but scant justice. That they were a loyal and a moral people no one can deny; their unshaken allegiance to the French Crown during long years of neglect and contumely, and their hatred of everything that was not virtuous, just and excellent, clearly attest the fact. That they were also an intelligent and ingenious, a courageous and high-minded people, follows from their ancient and modern ancestry.

There is something noble in seeing a gallant and chivalrous people succumb before the force of numbers. Long had they suffered cruel neglect at the hand of their Sovereign, and still remained firm in their attachment to him—long had they patiently endured privations and sufferings of no ordinary kind—and long and resolute had been the defence they had made against the enemy. No one can challenge the magnanimous course of the conquerors in granting to them the full enjoyment of their language, religion, and laws, and nobly have they since shewn how well they could appreciate so liberal a concession.

The native aborigines occupy no insignificant place in the several races which have been merged in the present British American people. Despite what has been said to the contrary, I maintain, and I always will maintain, that the native possessors of the soil, even in their primitive condition, had all the type and elements of national greatness. Rude, barbarous and uncivilized they were, but who can tell what they might not have been, had the beneficent influences of holy religion and charity been exercised over them, free from cruel wrong and tyranny? Sad and discreditable is the story of European oppression in the cause of American Civilization! One can well realize and sympathize with the poor savage who, taking a Frenchman to the top of Mount Royal, exclaimed in distressing accents, as he pointed around him, "All that you now survey once belonged to our people!"

Is it a matter for wonderment that this proud and sensitive race, in their wild and untutored condition, conscious of the grievous injuries which they were smarting under, should, in a spirit of retaliation, turn upon their enemies and have life for life? I think, however much we may deprecate and lament a state of things so maleficent, that you will agree with me that the Indian was perfectly justified in avenging his name and race.

There are two leading and prominent attributes in their character, which I have observed in reading of them, and which have been manifested not only in their normal but in their transitional state. I refer to what I might call their military and political capability, and their intellectual power generally. As an evidence of the former we have the chronicle of their exploits in many fierce engagements, in which they displayed a nice knowledge of strategy and the tactics

of war, great skill and immense fearlessness. King Philip, in 1675, ere he could be checked in his career of destruction, had sacked and burned thirteen towns, had slain six hundred men, and involved an expense on the Colonies of \$500,000 ; and in Canada, the war commenced by Champlain against the Indian people was continued by the latter for the long period of one hundred years. In diplomacy, who of our modern men could excel La Rat, in conducting a treaty or in forcing an unwilling concession? Turning to the latter quality I have named, we will find that their powers of mind and understanding are by no means small or deficient, and that they are in every way susceptible of improvement and cultivation. In 1615, the Récollet Friars sent an Indian youth to France, where he was entered at Calleville College, and after pursuing his studies there for some years, came forth well versed in all that goes to make up an educated gentleman. Joseph Brandt, an Indian of pure Mohawk blood, held a commission in the British army and rendered important services to his country ; on visiting Europe he surprised the *savans* of the day by the extensive and varied nature of his attainments and learning. Sackeuse, a native of Labrador, studied under the painter, Nasymth, at Edinburgh, and displayed great ability in the art. In 1818 he accompanied Sir James Ross in his expedition to the Arctic seas, and rendered important services to that distinguished discoverer, in appreciation of which the Admiralty placed him in possession of means to finish and perfect his education, to which he devoted himself with great energy and gave promise of a brilliant future, when he was suddenly cut off through the fell ravages of disease. Again, we know, within a few short years, of many Indian youths who have graduated with distinguished success at our Universities; and as a still further proof of the correctness of my proposition, we have the fact of a promising young member of a Western tribe now pursuing his studies at Oxford under the patronage of no less a personage and gentleman than the Prince of Wales, our future King!

In short, whether we look at Pontiac, Tecumseth, the Prophet, or any of their "representative men," we cannot fail to perceive that they possessed powerful and energetic minds, which were frequently moved by many sublime impulses.

With the Conquest come the Saxon and the Celt. We have, then, four component parts in our national body—we have the Indian, formed from an Asiatic mould, with his fierce and impetuous, but often sympathetic and forgiving disposition ; we have the vivacious, versatile, chivalrous and energetic descendent of the old Gallic and Frankish races ; and joined to these are the fiery, persevering, stubborn, but at all times generous and valiant sons of St. George, St. Andrew and St. Patrick. These, united in one strong and cohesive bond, form the British American people. I think we ought to be proud of our lineage ! I, for one, would not willingly exchange it.

So far, our history has been an eventful one; early overcast by lowering and misgiving clouds, which succeeding tokens only made more dark and gloomy, our dawn was an unpromising one, but as the great poet and dramatist has said: "There is a tide in the affairs of man which, taken at the flow, leads on to fortune," and the star of our prosperity, once set in, has shone long and brightly. Our country has won for itself a prominent place on the map of the world, and with it that degree of deference and attention due its present eminent position and still more promising future.

Le Sage and Chateaubriand have each immortalized Canadians in their works—Jolliet and Marquette, Marc Lescarbot and Mrs. Brooke, Mrs. Jameson and Mrs. Moodie, have lived and wrought in our midst—Sir William Grant and Baron Maseres have been our Attorneys-General—Moore has given us a song in his *Melodies*—Lord Hardinge pursued his mathematical studies at Quebec, under a French Canadian priest—Sir Charles Lyell and Sir William Hooker have "broken the bread" of our science—Robert Stephenson designed our Victoria Bridge—and Baron Pursh, James Wilson and Lord Sydenham repose in our churchyards!

It is not strange or singular that having gained so much distinction for our country, which we have raised from Barbarism to Civilization, we should also have secured something for ourselves as a people. The man who is not proud and jealous of the fame and greatness of his distinguished countrymen is an alien in feeling and purpose, is moved by no patriotic love, and is an object unfit to live. It was well said by Mr. McGee that Canada ought to be as jealous of the reputations of her great men as either Scotland, Scandinavia, Switzerland or New England; and mentioned as a reason why the name of our country stands for nothing, represents no definite idea, typifies no interest, awakens no associations in the Spanish, Italian, German or French mind, is because hitherto we have made no endeavour to preserve from oblivion the memories of men who have wrought for the common weal of the Province, or of others who have acquired a reputation for themselves abroad, either in the naval or military service, or in the walks of literature, science or art. It was Gibbon also who wrote that, in a civilized state, where every faculty is expanded and exercised in constant and useful labors, a memorial should be raised to the most distinguished. Those of our countrymen who, through force of their own abilities, have achieved distinction abroad, have had no easy road to travel. Formerly, to be a Colonist or a Provincial was the worst introduction a man could carry with him to England; but happily, like most prejudices and antipathies wrongly imbibed, and mainly, too, owing to the superior character and attainments of the sons these Provinces have, from time to time, sent forth, this feeling has altogether subsided, and is only now remembered to our own advantage. A few years since a

friend of mine\* went up to attend the lectures on zoology at University College, London, by the late estimable Dr. Lindley. On presenting himself, the latter asked him the name of his native country, and on the question being answered, exclaimed, in a warm and cordial manner, at the same time grasping the hand of my friend, "Ah! I will take more interest in your studies on account of your being a Canadian, for I have the highest admiration for your people." It would be cruel and ungrateful in the extreme were any other feeling to be displayed by the Mother Country at the present time, in face of the many substantial proofs we have given of our loyalty and attachment. The 100th Regiment will be a lasting token of Canadian patriotism.

In truth, British Americans have no reason to be ashamed of the men they have sent forth into the world.

There is not a profession or calling of an honorable or industrious character in which they have not distinguished themselves. And this reminds me of a second incident, highly gratifying to our national pride, which occurred on another of our young medical practitioners† going up for examination before the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He had been but two days in the country when he presented himself before the Board of Examiners, and without any additional application or study beyond those which he had pursued in a Canadian College, and with no experience but what he had gained in the exercise of his profession here, he desired to undergo the searching ordeal. The result was, that after going through the first stage of the principal examination, the Chairman told him that it was unnecessary to proceed any further, as he (the applicant) had already acquitted himself so creditably that the Board were quite satisfied of his professional knowledge and *acumen*, and had granted him his diploma!

The indomitable energy, perseverance and pluck of our people is proverbial. Louisiana was colonized by D'Iberville; New Orleans was founded by his brother, the Sieur de Bienville; Milwaukee by Solomon Juneau; Galveston by Michel Menard; J. B. Faribault founded the settlement in Minnesota which bears his name; Gabriel Franchère was one of the founders of Astoria, and crossed the Rocky Mountains long before Fremont or Palliser; whilst Colonel Head‡ demonstrated the practicability of an overland route to India.

Go where we will throughout the world, we will find a representative of these Provinces holding some important position or performing some useful profession or function. Towards the end of the last

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\* Dr. A. P. Reid, a graduate of McGill College; author of a *Dissertation on Strychnia*.

† Dr. J. A. Grant, F.G.S., of Ottawa.

‡ A native of Nova Scotia in the Imperial Service; author of a work on the Overland Route to India.

century a French Canadian artist\* was flourishing in Russia. In India we will still hear the name of a prominent journalist, † now no more, spoken of in terms of high praise and affectionate regard; whilst in one of her Universities we will meet a Professor, ‡ from Canada. If fortune should take us as far as Pekin, we will see an "Upper Canada College boy," § who carried off the prize for the best English poem at Oxford. At Florence, ¶ Falardeau, || brush in hand, will greet us. It is not long since that one of our fellow colonists, lately dead, ¶ occupied a seat in one of the Australian Parliaments, whilst in the Legislatures of Vancouver and British Columbia, we have still representatives.\*\* At Gibraltar we can claim the Chief Justice. †† The recollection of the lofty and moving eloquence of Du Plessis ‡‡ in the French pulpit is still fresh in the religious circles in Paris; and in the prayers of the Abbé de Beaujeu §§ the

\* Blancours, the first Canadian who studied painting in Europe, where he carried off a prize at one of the Academies.

† The late J. R. Wilby, who successively edited the *Hurkaru*; *Bengal Times*; *The Mofussilite*; *Delhi Gazette*; *Lahore Chronicle*; and the *Friend of India*. There was scarcely a department in philology or the sciences in regard to which he was altogether ignorant. His linguistical and scientific attainments were pretty nearly on a par. As a public writer, Mr. W. was one of the boldest and most thoroughly honest the Indian press ever possessed.

‡ Mr. Stevenson, Professor of Astronomy in the University of Calcutta.

§ Owen Alexander Vidal, son of the late Admiral Vidal of Sarnia. Appointed by Lord Palmerston, a few years since, an Attaché to the Embassy to Pekin.

|| Chevalier Falardeau, a Canadian Artist.

¶ Alexander Keefer, brother of T. C. Keefer, Esq., C. E., represented the Owen District in the Victoria Assembly.

\*\* Hon. Geo. A. Walkem, a graduate of McGill College, and Dr. Powell, brother of Lt.-Col. Powell, Deputy Adjutant General, Canada.

†† Sir James Cockrane, born at Halifax. Admitted at the Inner Temple 1818, and called to the bar there in 1829. Appointed Chief Justice of Gibraltar, 1841.

‡‡ François Xavier Du Plessis, of the Company of Jesus, born at Quebec in 1693. He early displayed such powers as a preacher that his brethren summoned him to Europe, in order that he might have a larger field for the exercise of his talents. He taught philosophy at Arras, and was Apostolic Missionary in Flanders, where he greatly distinguished himself as a pulpit orator. Returning to Paris he passed the remainder of his life in the capital. The date of his death is unknown.

§§ The Abbé Louis Liénard de Beaujeu, a member of the distinguished Canadian family of that name. L'Abbé Faillon reproduces a letter from the Superior of the Sulpicians at Paris to the Superior of the branch of the Order at Montreal, in which occurs the following passage:—"I have the pleasure of informing you that a young Canadian, the Abbé de Beaujeu, has carried away the prize for a theological thesis, from all the French competitors." The Abbé was afterwards appointed Confessor in Ordinary to the King.

unfortunate Louis XVI. found that religious and spiritual consolation which he so much needed. Grasset de St. Sauveur occupied the honorable position of French Consul in Hungary. In Mexico we have at the present time more than one\* of our native sons holding important posts in the Imperial service. In Edinburgh, a few years ago, there died a prelate † of the Church of Rome, who was always proud to acknowledge Canada as the land of his birth and the cradle of his education and advancement. In London we will find a Peer of the Realm, ‡ the head of one of the proudest and most honorable houses of the nobility of the United Kingdom, a learned Queen's Counsel, § an active medical practitioner and scientific writer, || and a young and promising poet, ¶ who will not be ashamed of the country whence they came. The honor-rolls of English Universities tell of prizes and degrees carried off against the world.\*\* It is only a short time

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\* Captain Faucher de St. Maurice, a native of Quebec, Chevalier of the Imperial Order of Guadalupe, a member of the Academy of Sciences of Mexico; holds the medal for the late Mexican expedition in which he was twice wounded.

† The late Right Rev. James Gillies, D.D., Bishop of Limyra; born in Canada, 1802; died in Scotland 1864. A powerful and eloquent preacher, a warm-hearted and affectionate divine, his words were listened to with the greatest respect; and it is worthy of remark, not only as an instance of his mastery of the French and other tongues, but of his ability as a preacher, that he frequently preached before the Court of Charles X., and in several important towns and cities on the Continent. His life seemed to be devoted to exemplifying the motto, "Peace on earth and good will to men."

‡ The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine. Born at Montreal, 1849.

§ Henry Bliss, Q. C., a native of Nova Scotia.

|| George Duncan Gibb, M.D., LL.D., M.R.C.P., F.G.S., Assistant Physician to and Lecturer on Forensic Medicine, at the Westminster Hospital, and Member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; author of a large number of Medical and other scientific works and pamphlets.

¶ Isidore G. Ascher, B.C.L., author of *Voices from the Hearth*; contributes to British Periodical Literature.

\*\* Thomas Hincks, B.A., of Baliol College, Oxford, born at Toronto, 5th August, 1841; died at Georgetown, Demerara, 8th November, 1864. Mr. H., received his prelatory education at Upper Canada College, and at the High School, Quebec. At the age of fourteen, he entered at Harrow, and went up from thence to Baliol College, Oxford, with the brightest auguries of success on the part of his preceptors, by whom his abilities and character were most highly esteemed. Nor were their anticipations disappointed, for after a brilliant University career, he graduated in May, 1864 (the year of his death), with the high distinction of a first class. He was destined for the profession of the law, and had enrolled his name as a member of the Inner Temple. This death occurred shortly after taking his degree.

"Those whom the gods love die young."

Mr. G. D. Redpath, of Montreal, a graduate of the University of Cam-



since that two young Canadian \* officers in the examination for entrance into Sandhurst College, where they had for competitors representatives from every branch in the service, came out "first" and "fourth" respectively on the lists.

Turning back for a moment to the period of French supremacy in this country, we find that New France gave birth to two remarkable men, whose careers demand more than passing notice. The first, Lemoine D'Iberville, reputed to be the most skilful naval officer in the service of France, was a scion of the noble house of De Longueil, and was born in Montreal, in 1661. He was one of seven brothers, who all played important parts in the affairs of Canada, in the seventeenth century. At an early age he went to sea as a marine guard in the Imperial Service, and as a volunteer in the midnight attack on Schenectady, his bravery and skill were so conspicuous, that he was immediately afterwards appointed an ensign. Gradually rising in his profession, we find him, in 1686, the commander of the expedition which recovered Fort Nelson from the British, and with it the control of the Indian commerce on the Nelson River. He invaded Newfoundland, overrunning the whole Island, taking forts, and even attacking St. Johns itself; and subsequently achieved some considerable victories over the English, in Hudson's Bay, where he was afterwards shipwrecked. In 1698 he was commissioned by the French Government to explore the mouth of the Mississippi, which had never yet been entered from the sea, and to erect a fort on its banks. With two frigates, two smaller vessels, a company of marines and about two hundred settlers, he set sail from Rochefort. Touching at St. Domingo, he passed over to Pensacola, which he found occupied by Spaniards, and reached Massacre Island, near Mobile, in February, 1699. Accompanied by his brother, De Bienville, who had been a companion of La Salle, and forty-eight men, he entered the Mississippi on the 2nd of March, and ascended it to some considerable distance. Erecting a fort as a proof of French jurisdiction, the command of which he intrusted to his brother, D'Iberville sailed for France, but returned when the authority of his country on the river was endangered by British aggression. In the following year he again ascended the Mississippi, as far as the country of the Natchez, while his brother explored Western Louisiana, crossed the Red River, and approached New Mexico. Aban-

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bridge, in the last examination, in 1864, went out "with honors in the classical tripos." It would appear that this young gentlemen not only trained his brain, but his muscle also, for at one of the recent annual boat contests between Oxford and Cambridge, he was declared the winner of the race!

\* Lieut. J. G. Ridout, late 100th Regiment, who had 2,699 marks, and Lieut. C. W. Robertson, 2nd Batt., P.C.O., Rifle Brigade, who had 2,425; both of Toronto.

doing the settlements which he had founded, through the havoc which disease had made amongst the people, he planted one on the western bank of the Mobile River, it being the first European settlement in Alabama. He also constructed fortifications on Massacre Island, which became, as it were, the centre of the colony. At this time he was attacked with yellow fever and only escaped with his health considerably impaired. In 1699 he had been created a Chevalier of the Order of St. Louis, and soon after the events I have described he was called to Europe and made commandant at Rochefort. In 1706 he was placed in command of a large fleet to effect the conquest of the English West Indies. He captured the Islands of Nevis and St. Christopher, and failing that of Jamaica, he was on the point of attacking Carolina, when his career was suddenly cut short, by his death, which occurred on board his flag-ship on the open sea.

The other individual to whom I have reference was Lieutenant General Vicomte DeLery, one of the first French Military Engineers of his time. Born at Quebec in 1754, he was the son of a French officer who had been a pupil of the great Vauban, and who, having a passionate love for the profession of arms, naturally desired to see his son also follow it. When only eight years of age, young DeLery commenced his studies in Paris, and at fifteen was admitted into the School of Engineers. In 1773 he received his Lieutenancy and served in several naval expeditions during the American Revolutionary war, and subsequently took part in the battle between the Count de Guichen and Admiral Kempenfeldt, and assisted to place the Islands of Guadaloupe and Tobago in a state of defence. In 1790 he was decorated with the Cross of St. Louis. The hostilities which were commenced in 1792, and which were maintained for a considerable period, offered frequent opportunities for the development of his talents, and for making rapid progress in the glorious career he had adopted.

He allowed none of the numerous campaigns in which he was engaged to pass without associating his name with the glories of Kleber, Jourdan and Bernadotte. In 1804 he became Chief of Brigade; in 1805, General of Division, and a year later Director of Fortifications. Rising still higher, as his genius and talent manifested themselves, in 1808 the first Consul named him Inspector of Fortifications and Commandant of Engineers in Holland. Under the distinguished officers I have just named, he planned the works and agreed to all the measures of attack and defence which facilitated the different passages of the Rhine at Dusseldorf and Vandaugen and secured the retreat of the army.

General DeLery was on the Danube, and accompanied Marshal McDonald through the difficult campaigns of the Grison, and was present with the grand army at Ulm and Austerlitz. He commanded at the sieges of Bibrach and Phillipsburg, conducted the blockades of

Cassel and Cadiz, and fortified Mayence. Recalled from the Peninsula, he was intrusted with the command of the engineers in the great Russian campaign, and was one of the few who escaped the fearful disasters which overtook the French army on that memorable occasion. For his great services he had been created a Baron of the Empire in 1811, with a domain in Westphalia. Shortly before Napoleon's downfall, Vicomte DeLery was intrusted with the construction of the works for the defence of Lyons. Louis XVIII. promoted him to the rank of Lieutenant-General. This eminent man attained the great age of threescore and ten. He was one of the engineer officers who had most thoroughly studied the connection between fortification and the art of war; he had the rare power of making command agreeable; he knew how to excite and direct the zeal of his officers; gave effect to their exertions, foresaw their wants and could minister to them so as to add the bonds of gratitude to those of duty. He took a lively interest in the welfare of those subordinate to him, and manifested his generosity to so great an extent that he went out of the world leaving literally nothing behind him, except the record of a well-spent and useful life, glowing with noble examples which should never be lost on the country he served so well, or the land of his birth, which he loved so dearly.

In addition to these two, New France also produced many other men who afterwards greatly distinguished themselves in the military and naval services of the Empire and Republic. Admirals Bédout and Martin, and Captains DeL'Echelle and Peloquin, in the former branch, and the Repentignys, DeVaudreuil, Hertels and Lacornes, in the latter, fill no unimportant place in the historical annals of the Old and New World.

In the British service there has not been a battle or engagement of any consequence for the last hundred years in which some British American has not taken part. We have Dunn\* in the campaign in Italy in 1805, in the expedition to Egypt in 1806, in the whole Peninsula campaign in 1810-11, and in the American war of 1812. We have Beckwith† at the Neville, at the Nile, and at Waterloo. We have Admiral Watt,‡ the hero of a hundred fights; we have George Westphal§ at Trafalgar, wounded in that

\* The late Major General Thomas Dunn, born at Quebec; entered the army in 1803.

† Major General W. Beckwith, K.H., no less known in the annals of philanthropy, a native of Nova Scotia; entered the army in 1813.

‡ The late Admiral Watt, a native of Nova Scotia.

§ Admiral Sir George Augustus Westphal, born in Nova Scotia in 1785; entered the navy under Lord Nelson, with whom he served until 1805; was severely wounded on board the *Victory* at Trafalgar, and again at the storming of Havre-de-Grace, in the *Chesapeake*; led the storming party on the last occasion; served at the siege of Martinique, at Flushing, in 1809, and throughout the whole American war of 1812; has been eight times gazetted.

memorable fight, his blood mingled with the immortal Nelson, in the cockpit of the *Victory*. We have Willshire\* in the West Indies, at Vimiera, at Corunna, at Walcheran, at Salamanca, at Vittoria, at St. Sebastian, at the Nive, in Kaffraria, in the East Indies, and in Affganistan. We have England† at Flushing, in Scicily, and as commander of the third division at Alma and Inkerman. We have DeSalaberry as the hero of Chateauguay,‡ we have Wallis§ as the captor of the *Chesapeake*.

The history of the noble defence made by Williams|| at Kars, and the heroic fortitude and strength with which he bore up under the trying and almost overwhelming difficulties which beset him; as well as that which records the great Inglis's¶ glorious achievement

\* The late General Sir Thomas Willshire, K.C.B. Born at Halifax, N.S., 1789; was created a Baronet in 1839 for his services in Affghanistan at the siege of Ghuznee, and the capture of Klelet; in 1841 received permission to wear the Order of the Dourance Empire, conferred on him by the King of Affghanistan for his services in that country.

† General Sir Richard England, born in Upper Canada in 1793, entered the army in 1808; has received the order of the Medjidie of the first class from the Sultan, and is Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor.

‡ The late Colonel C. M. DeSalaberry, C.B., who rendered important services to the Crown during the war of 1812, and achieved the glorious victory over the American forces at Chateauguay.

§ Admiral Sir Provo William Parry Wallis, K.C.B., born at Halifax 1791, has seen much service, having been concerned in the capture of six frigates, one colony, and many minor affairs; was aide-de-camp to the Queen from 1847 to 1851.

|| Lieutenant General Sir W. Fenwick Williams of Kars, Bart., K.C.B., born at Annapolis, Nova Scotia, 1800, entered the army in 1825; employed in Turkey from 1840 to 1843, as British Commissioner at the Conference preceding the treaty signed at Erzeroum in 1847; was British Commissioner for the settlement of the Turko-Persian boundary, June, 1848. In August, 1854, while the British army was at Varna, he was appointed British Commander with the Turkish forces, and received the local rank of Brigadier General in 1855; was M.P. for Calne from 1856 to 1859; Commander of the Forces in Canada from latter year until 1865, when appointed Lieutenant Governor of his native colony.

¶ The late Major General Sir John E. W. Inglis, K.C.B., born at Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1816; died at Hamburg, September, 1862. Entering the army in 1833, he served with the 32nd Foot in Canada during the rebellion in 1837, and was subsequently ordered to India, where he took part in the Punjaub campaign of 1848-9. He led one of the columns of attack at the storming of Mooltan, and was present at the battle of Gujerat. For his gallantry in the latter engagement he received the brevet of Lieutenant Colonel. He was with his regiment at Lucknow, when that city was besieged by the mutineers in 1857, and, on the death of Sir Henry Lawrence, succeeded to the command of the garrison, and defended the position with a very small force of English soldiers, already enfeebled by privation and the diseases incident to a hostile climate, against an enormously disproportioned force. At the time of his death he was Commander of the Forces in the Ionian Islands.

at Lucknow, will live as long as the language in which it is written.

In the Victoria Cross Gallery the portraits of two Canadians, Dunn\* and Reade,† will be shown as evidence of dauntless bravery and manly devotion, at a time when, with others, "self-preservation

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\* Lieutenant Colonel A. R. Dunn, V.C., 33rd Foot, a native of Toronto. As Lieutenant in the 11th Hussars, took part in the celebrated charge of the 600 at Balaklava, and was one of those who

"Storm'd at with shot and shell,  
While horse and hero fell,  
They that had fought so well  
Came thro' the jaws of death  
Back from the mouth of hell."

Colonel Dunn's share in this memorable transaction was worthy of his lineage and country. He not only overthrew all with whom he came into direct conflict, but left the ranks more than once to rescue troopers whom he saw engaged singly against numbers, and to whom he brought the succor of his resistless sword-arm. When Her Majesty was advised to institute a new military order for the distinction of cases of individual valor in action with the enemy, and a demand was made for the most distinguished man for personal gallantry in the terrible charge of the Light Brigade, Colonel Dunn's was the name which, by the common accord of officers and men, was returned. The Victoria Cross was publicly delivered to him in Hyde Park, by the hand of the Queen herself. To have been declared the bravest of the brave of that astonishing little band of heroes is no mere praise. Colonel Dunn assisted in raising the 100th or Prince of Wales' Royal Canadian Regiment of Foot, of which he became Major, and afterwards Lieutenant Colonel, and exchanged a short time since into the regiment which he at present commands.

† Herbert Taylor Reade, V.C., Surgeon of the 61st Regiment, born near Perth, County of Lanark, U. C.

"WAR OFFICE, February 5.—The Queen has been graciously pleased to signify her intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross on the under-mentioned officer of Her Majesty's army, whose claim to the same has been submitted for Her Majesty's approval, on account of acts of bravery performed by him in India, as recorded against his name, viz.: 61st Regiment now forming part of the Plymouth Garrison. Surgeon Herbert Taylor Reade. During the siege of Delhi, on the 14th September, 1857, while Surgeon Reade was attending to the wounded, at the end of one of the streets of the city, a party of rebels advanced from the direction of the bank, and, having established themselves in the houses in the street, commenced firing from the roofs. The wounded were thus in very great danger and would have fallen into the hands of the enemy had not Surgeon Reade drawn his sword, and, calling upon the few soldiers who were near to follow, succeeded, under a heavy fire, in dislodging the rebels from their position. Surgeon Reade's party consisted of about ten in all, of whom two were killed and five or six wounded. Surgeon Reade also accompanied the regiment at the assault of Delhi, and, on the morning of the 16th September, 1857, was one of the first up at the breach in the magazine which was stormed by the 61st Regiment and Belooch Battalion, upon which occasion he, with a Sergeant of the 61st Regiment, spiked one of the enemy's guns."—*London Gazette*, 1862.

would have been the first law of nature." In India and the Crimea the tombs of a number of our countrymen, who sacrificed their lives for England's glory, speak more eloquently than I can do of "deeds of might and feats of wondrous daring." In the former place the passing traveller may see the spot where, after returning from the Chinese war, and securing the Chillianwallah, Mountain\* fell a victim to pestilent disease and was buried. In the same Empire he will also notice the grave of Montizambert,† who was killed whilst gallantly leading on his men in a night attack in Mooltan. In that far distant country the remains of Evans, Joly, McKay, Sewell and Vaughan also lie buried.

In the Crimea, Parker‡ fell in the midst of the fight; and Welsford§ bathed the rampart of the Redan with his devoted blood.

These are names which require no eulogy; no "storied urn or animated bust" can add to the greatness of their performances; their memories will remain fresh and green with us until time shall be no more.

In the more peaceful pursuits of life, we can claim Donald McKay, the eminent shipbuilder and inventor, and Sir Samuel Cunard, who might properly be called the father of steam navigation on the Atlantic; Rear-Admiral Sir Edward Belcher, whom Captain Maryatt declared to be the "first surveying officer in the world," and who has distinguished himself as a circumnavigator of the globe, and commanded an expedition in search of Sir John Franklin; Sir Charles

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\* Col. Mountain, C.B., and Aide-de-Camp to the Queen. Born at Quebec, 1797; died when on the march from Cawnpore to Fattyghur, 1854.

† Major G. S. Montizambert, 10th Foot. Born at Quebec, 1813. Killed in action 12th September, 1848.

‡ Of Nova Scotia.

§ Major Welsford, of Nova Scotia, to whose memory a National Monument has been erected at Halifax.

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"And thou, brave Welsford! when the battle's van  
 Rolled its red surges on the firm Redan,  
 Thou with the first upon the rampart stood,  
 And bathed its stones with thy devoted blood.  
 Well I recall thee in thy youthful bloom,  
 Ere cap and gown were changed for sword and plume;  
 Nor thought I then, ere *lustra* five, to see  
 The Poet's verse applied with truth to thee:  
 'Dulce et decorum est,' runs the glowing line,  
 'Pro patria mori,' such a death was thine."

*Epistola Poetica ad Familiarem anctore.* V. R. Josepho H. Clinch, A.M  
 E Coll. Reg. N. S. MDCCCLXIV.

To this list of British Americans in the army and navy might be added the names of General Cochrane, and the late Admiral Sir Jableet Brenton, and numerous others.

Darling,\* Governor of Victoria, Australia, and the late Sir William Winniett,† Governor of the Gold Coast, are also British Americans.

If we turn to the Fine Arts, we have the late Gilbert Stuart Newton, R.A., the famous painter; the friend of Leslie and of Washington Irving; whose works the latter said had "a coloring almost unrivalled, and a liveliness of fancy and a quickness of conception, and a facility and grace of execution, that spread a magic charm over them."

The same indomitable spirit of energy and perseverance which has characterized all our countrymen is traced in the life of the Chevalier Falardeau. Originally a poor boy in Quebec, without means, and very little education, he conceived a great passion for painting; and at the termination of his day's labor would devote himself constantly and assiduously to the cultivation of the art, and soon evinced decided marks of ability. His cherished desire was to proceed to Europe, to study in the great schools on the Continent. His poverty for a long time prevented the consummation of his design; but at length, through hard scraping, and with the assistance of some friends who perceived his growing talents, he succeeded in getting together sufficient to pay his passage across the Atlantic. He took up his residence in Italy, and by dint of severe study and practice, in course of time attained a high position in his profession, and has since had conferred upon him, by the Grand Duke of Tuscany, the title which he bears.

In addition to these, we possess five other painters, of considerable ability, in Kane, Bourassa, Plamondon, Hamel and Legaré.

In science, we are especially proud of our Logan,‡ Dawson,§ Gesner,|| Billings¶ and Bell,\*\* who occupy a place with the first men

\* Sir Charles Darling, K.C.B. Born at Annapolis Royal, 1809. Entered the army, from Sandhurst College, in 1826; retired in 1841. Has been successively Lieutenant-Governor of St. Lucia; Lieutenant-Governor of the Cape of Good Hope; Governor-in-Chief of Antigua and the Leeward Islands; Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland; Captain General and Governor-in-Chief of Jamaica; and is now Governor of Victoria.

† Sir W. Winniett served for a lengthened period in the Royal Navy, and saw much active service. Died 1851.

‡ Sir William E. Logan, F.R.S., F.G.S., director of the Geological Survey of Canada. Born at Montreal, 1798. In 1856, was awarded the Wollaston gold medal, by the Geological Society of England.

§ J. W. Dawson, F.R.S., F.G.S., Principal of the University of McGill College, Montreal. Born at Pictou, N.S., 1820. Author of many scientific and other works.

|| The late Abraham Gesner, M.D. Born at Cornwallis, N.S., discoverer of Kerosene Oil, and the modes of extracting oils from coals and other bituminous substances; died in 1862.

¶ Elkanah Billings, F.G.S., the well-known Paleontologist, born in Gloucester, near Ottawa, C.W. Author of various contributions to scientific literature.

\*\* Robert Bell, C.E., F.G.S. Professor of Chemistry and Natural

of the day, and who have rendered important services, which can never adequately be repaid by their fellow-countrymen of British America.

To these our sciential pioneers—the delvers who have brought forth from the bosom of the earth the countless treasures which had remained hidden from the sight and use of man, through the lapse of ages—the words of the poet had not been addressed in vain :

“ Hope evermore and believe, O man, for e'en as thy thought is  
So are the things that thou seest,—e'en as thy hope and belief.  
Cowardly art thou, and timid ? they rise to provoke thee against them.  
Hast thou courage ? enough, see them exulting to yield,  
Yea, the rough rock, the dull earth, the wild sea's furing storm,  
(Violent, say'st thou, and hard,—mighty thou think'st to destroy,)  
All, with ineffable longing, are waiting their Invader  
All, with one varying voice, call to him, Come and subdue !

\* \* \* \* \*

Fear not, retire not, O man ; hope evermore and believe.  
Go from the east to the west, as the sun and the stars direct thee ;  
Go with the girdle of man, go and encompass the earth,—  
Not for the gain of gold, for the getting, the hoarding, the having,—  
But for the joy of the deed ; but for the duty to do.

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Say to thyself,—It is good ; yet is there better than it.  
This that I see is not all, and this that I do is but little ;  
Nevertheless it is good, though there is better than it.”

In Literature we have produced a Grasset de Saint Sauveur,\* a Thomas Chandler Haliburton,† a John Foster Kirk,‡ a John Richardson,§ a “Cousin May Carleton.”|| a Pierre Chauveau,¶

Sciences, in Queen's University, Kingston. Born in the Township of Toronto, 1841. Has been connected with, and contributed to, the reports of the Geological Survey of Canada, and has written many papers in connection with the natural sciences.

\* A celebrated French *litterateur*. Born at Montreal, 1757. Author of many works of fiction and miscellaneous productions, which were extremely popular in France in his day ; died in Paris, 1810.

† The late Member for Launceton, in the House of Commons. Born in Nova Scotia, 1803. Author of the unrivalled productions of “Sam Slick,” satirizing the character and manner of the Yankee people, which are declared for genuine wit and humour to stand unequalled.

‡ The author of “*The History of Charles the Bold of Burgundy*,” which deservedly drew forth the unqualified praise of the British and American press, when it appeared some years since. Born at Fredericton, N.B., 1824, and has since taken up his residence in the United States, where he contributes to the periodical press.

§ The late Major Richardson, a native of Upper Canada. Author of “*Wacousta*,” “*Ecarté*,” “*The Canadian Brothers*,” &c.

|| Mrs. Fleming, a native of New Brunswick, the well-known writer for American serials.

¶ The author of *Charles Guerin*, &c.



a Charles Sangster,\* a François Garneau,† a Rosanna Le-prohon,‡ an Octave Cremazie,§ and a Louisa Murray.|| We have poets in Howe, Fiset, Ascher, Frechette, Vadeboncœur, Lemay, Gray, Reeves, Vining, Katzmann and Jennings; novelists in Bourassa, DeBoucherville, and Lajoie; historians in Christie, Ferland, Murdoch and Bibaud, and a long list of miscellaneous writers, such as Royal, Sewell, Taché, Casgrain, Scadding, DeGaspé, Lemoine, Hodgins, Marshall, Dessaulles, Harrison, DeBellefeuille, Perley, Griffin, Hart, Raymond, Soulard and many others. These, with Neilson, Howe, Morin, Young, Parent, McDougall, Cauchon, Pope and McCully, as journalists, present a galaxy of native talent sufficient to speak for itself.

Before I close, I may remark that we have been fortunate in the general class of public men (natives and others) who have from time to time guided the destinies of our great country. Many of them have evinced the possession of a very considerable share of those large intellectual qualities of reason and capacity which go to make up the statesman and the diplomatist *par excellence*. Indeed there are several of them who, if their lot had been cast in the English arena, would do credit to the House of Commons. In public spirit, and enterprise, and in being equal to grapple with great difficulties in times of great emergency, there are one or two of our statesmen who could stand in the same place with the leading men in the adjoining Republic or in Europe.

We have had in many of our politicians a race of "giants." If we recall the names of the Sewells, DeLotbinières, Stuarts, Papineaus, Neilsons, Robinsons, Youngs, DeBartzchs, Uniaches, Sullivans, Valliers, Baldwins, Doyles, Lafontaines, Archibalds, Hincks, Morins and Johnsons of the past, what a grand and powerful class of men do we not bring before us? These, ladies and gentlemen, are the names which have contributed to our country's greatness and splendor—these are the men who have helped to build up what in future years will be a great northern monarchical nation, vieing in power and repute with the vast and voracious Republic across our borders. These are the men whose rendering of the word *duty* was far different from that which poor Arthur Clough gives:—

“——— Duty—'tis to take on trust  
What things are good, and right and just;

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\* Our popular Canadian poet, whose fame is not confined to his native Province, but extends to Europe itself.

† Author of the best *History of Canada* extant.

‡ Author of many deservedly popular works.

§ A French Canadian poet of rare powers.

|| Author of the *Citied Curate* and other novels. A contributor to *Once a Week*.

And whether indeed they be or be not,  
Try not, test not, feel not, see not :  
'Tis walk and dance, sit down and rise  
By leading, opening ne'er your eyes ;  
Stunt sturdy limbs that Nature gave,  
And be drawn in a bath-chair to the grave."

And now, in conclusion, may I express the hope that you are satisfied that British America has produced many great names which will live, and that the place in history which they have won for themselves is no unworthy or inconsiderable one.

If we, our sons or successors, can one day cast a retrospective glance over a long life, and feel that we have done as well—that we have discharged our obligations to our Sovereign and Government as faithfully, that we have served the interests of our country as zealously, and that we leave behind us a name as good and great, a reputation as unsullied and clear, surely ours will be a feeling of heart-felt satisfaction—surely we shall deserve well of posterity!

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